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UNCLAS MADRID 003648

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR AND NEA; NSC FOR ANSLEY; SECDEF FOR OSD/ISP

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SPAIN: MFA STATEMENT ON IRAQ REFERENDUM

REF: STATE 189909

1. The Spanish Foreign Ministry issued a statement Oct. 17 praising the Iraq referendum. When Polcouns thanked MFA DG for Middle East Iranzo for the statement, Iranzo was grateful we had noted the statement and said that, regarding Iraq, Spain was now looking only "toward the future." Informal English translation of the text of the statement below.

2. Begin informal translation of Spanish MFA Statement on Iraq referendum:

The Spanish government is gratified at the celebration, without serious incidents and with wide popular participation, of the Constitutional Referendum which took place October 15 in Iraq.

Provisional vote estimates indicate majority support for the approval of the constitutional text, which would permit the forward advancement of the normalization of the Iraqi political process, as determined in UN Security Council Resolution 1546, and supported by the international community.

The Spanish government is confident that the political transition in Iraq will continue its development in accordance with the calendar as planned, which includes legislative elections in the short term. In this regard it (the government of Spain) hopes that efforts will continue to fully incorporate all of the political forces represented in the country in the effort to build a sovereign, democratic, peaceful, united and prosperous Iraq. End text.
AGUIRRE